

September 13, 2000

sacrifices made by so many to secure peace and prosperity, it is highly appropriate to recognize the service of the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine. I urge your support of this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE  
RENAL DIALYSIS PAYMENT  
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2000

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by Representative KAREN THURMAN and Senators FRIST and CONRAD in introducing the Medicare Renal Dialysis Payment Fairness Act of 2000 and 15 other original cosponsors. This legislation takes important steps to help sustain and improve the quality of care for the more than 280,000 Americans living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

In 1972, Congress ensured that elderly and disabled individuals with kidney failure receive appropriate dialysis care. At that time, Medicare coverage was extended to include dialysis treatments for individuals with ESRD.

Over the last three decades, dialysis facilities have provided services to increasing numbers of kidney failure patients under increasingly strict quality standards; however, during this same time frame reimbursement for kidney services has not kept pace with the increasing demands of providing dialysis care.

While these efforts were a step in the right direction, a recent Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) report suggests that we must take further action to sustain patients' access to dialysis services. In particular, MedPAC recommends a 1.2 percent payment adjustment for Medicare-covered dialysis services in the next fiscal year. In addition, MedPAC recommends that the Health Care Financing Administration provide an annual review of the dialysis payment rate—a review that most other Medicare-covered services receive each year.

I believe these recommendations represent critical adjustments that must be addressed this year. For this reason, I have worked with Representative THURMAN, Senator FRIST, and Senator CONRAD to develop the Medicare Renal Dialysis Payment Fairness Act of 2000. This legislation would provide the payment rate improvements recommended by MedPAC and would establish an annual payment review process for dialysis services. This proposal would help ensure all dialysis providers receive reimbursement that is in line with increasing patient load and quality requirements. This is particularly important for our nation's smaller, rural dialysis providers that on average receive Medicare payments that do not adequately reflect costs.

As Congress considers further improvements to the Medicare program, I urge my colleagues to support this important effort to ensure patients with kidney failure continue to have access to quality dialysis services. I thank my colleagues for working together on this bipartisan and bicameral proposal.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WELCOME C.J. CHEN

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my friends on Capitol Hill, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Republic of China's Representative in the United States, Mr. C.J. Chen. He is now serving a Taiwan's top diplomat in the United States and his office is in Washington, D.C.

Representative C.J. Chen is uniquely qualified for this top diplomatic post. Representative Chen has spent his entire career in the Republic of China's government service. After receiving his education in Taiwan and Europe, Representative Chen joined the ROC's foreign service and served in many capacities over the last 2 decades.

Most notably, he was the ROC's Deputy Representative in Washington (1982-1989); Administrative Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (89-93); a Senator in the ROC Parliament (93-96); Political Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (96-98); and Foreign Minister (99-00).

Representative Chen's appointment to Washington is timely. We are fortunate to have someone like Representative C.J. Chen to brief us on the latest developments in his country and the latest issues affecting both our countries.

Representative Chen is a hardworking diplomat. Even during the summer recess, he has met with a number of us and briefed members about President Chen's recent trip to countries in Central America and Africa as well as the need for the ROC to be recognized as a team player in international affairs. Taiwan's financial strength, democratization, and record on human rights are accomplishments worth universal recognition and praise.

I look forward to working with Representative C.J. Chen and his staff.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR PER  
ANGER ON HIS RECEIVING HON-  
ORARY ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the 18th of September, Israel will award honorary citizenship to Ambassador Per Anger, the distinguished Swedish diplomat who worked so closely with Raoul Wallenberg to rescue Hungarian Jews during the Second World War. I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Anger's lifetime accomplishments, including his association with Raoul Wallenberg during 1944, as an example of the good that human beings can accomplish, even when faced with incomprehensible darkness.

Per Anger received his first diplomatic assignment at the age of 27 as an attaché to Berlin in the early stages of the Second World

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War. During that year (1941) he worked for the Foreign Department's trade section dealing with relations between Sweden and Hungary. It was this position which eventually led him, in November of 1942, to join the Swedish legation in Budapest. In March of 1942 he became second secretary in the Swedish legation in Hungary.

Mr. Speaker, for two years prior to the Nazi occupation of Budapest, Anger reported that conditions in Budapest were relatively stable and calm. But with the arrival of the German military in March 1944 and the subsequent deportation of Hungary's Jewish population, he entered the defining year of his life and career as a diplomat. When the Nazis initiated deportations, Anger assumed an early role in devising schemes to protect Jews. While the later *schutzpasse* was Wallenberg's innovation, Anger originally conceived the idea of issuing special certificates to Hungarian Jews who had applied for Swedish citizenship. Before Wallenberg arrived, the Swedish legation had issued 700 certificates and provisional passports which had no legal validity, but served their purpose in preventing the shipment of individuals to Auschwitz.

With Wallenberg's arrival on July 9, 1944, Per Anger began a partnership that would deliver tens of thousands of Jews from deportation and almost certain destruction in Nazi death camps. While Wallenberg's tragic end has made him the more recognizable rescuer, Anger made a substantial contribution in his quiet but efficient manner. Per Anger was frequently Wallenberg's partner in missions of mercy to the columns of Jews forced to march out of Hungary after Allied bombing had made the railways unusable. Where the Jews marched and died, Wallenberg and Anger distributed food, administered comfort, and often managed to return with some of the suffering people to Budapest.

Mr. Speaker, Per Anger's life and legacy are permanently linked with Wallenberg, not only because their shared efforts in Budapest during the Second World War, but also because of Anger's lifelong compassionate quest to discover the fate of his partner, who disappeared mysteriously behind Soviet lines in January of 1945. Throughout the second half of the twentieth century Anger labored to disseminate information about Wallenberg and to bring his plight to the attention of world leaders. In 1989 he urged Helmut Kohl to take the issue directly to Mikhail Gorbachev, and listened in to a telephone call as Kohl pleaded with Russian leader to "let that old man go." Gorbachev, according to Anger, had no response.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate and fitting that the state of Israel has granted Per Anger the high recognition of making him an honorary citizen. He has spent most of his life in the service of others, including that turbulent year in Budapest collaborating with Raoul Wallenberg in saving innocent lives. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this distinguished Swedish diplomat for his courage, humanitarian dedication, and good works.